

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 12004 131132Z

66

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /063 W

----- 116626

R 131116Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9317

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 12004

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR, BE

SUBJECT: JEAN SOUTOU, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE EEC

1. JEAN SOUTOU, 62, THE SON OF A BRUGES SHOEMAKER, HAS JUST BEEN NAMED NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE EEC. HOLDING NO DEGREE HIGHER THAN THAT OF HIGH SCHOOL' SOUTOU BEGAN HIS CAREER AS FRENCH UNDERGROUND INFORMATION OFFICER IN SWITZERLAND DURING WORLD WAR II. AFTER FIVE YEARS AS SECOND SECRETARY IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BELGRADE (1945-50), HE HELD A SUCCESSION OF POSTS AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY UNTIL 1956, DURING WHICH TIME HE WAS A STRONG ADVOCATE OF FRANCE'S JOINING THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COMMUNITY, WHICH BROKE DOWN WHEN FRANCE DECIDED NOT TO JOIN. IN 1956 HE WAS NAMED DCM IN MOSCOW. THIS ASSIGNMENT WAS PARTIALLY DUE TO HIS MENTOR, PIERRE MENDES-FRANCE, IN WHOSE CABINET HE SERVED AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WHILE THE LATTER WAS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (1954-55). HE LEFT MOSCOW IN 1958 TO BECOME CONSUL-GENERAL IN MILAN. FROM 1961 TO 1966 HE WAS BACK AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY, FIRST HEADING EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, THEN, IN 1962, ASSUMING DIRECTION OF THE AFRICAN-MALAGASY DEPARTMENT. FROM 1966 TO 1971 HE HELD THE POSITION OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FRENCH DIPLOMATIC POSTS. IN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 12004 131132Z

NOVEMBER 1971 HE WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS, A

POSITION HE HELD UNTIL HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT.

2. IN HIS DEALINGS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS SOUTOU HAS INVARIABLY PROVED COOPERATIVE AND FRIENDLY, IF SOMEWHAT RESERVED. HE IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, AND DURING THE DE GAULLE ADMINISTRATION ENCOUNTERED SOME DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF CERTAIN PRO-AMERICAN VIEWS HE HELD. IN FACT, SO STRONG WAS HIS SUPPORT OF FRANCE'S REMAINING IN NATO'S INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMAND THAT HIS PROMOTION IN 1966 TO INSPECTOR GENERAL AMOUNTED TO BEING KICKED UPSTAIRS. CHASTISEMENT WAS COMPLETED WITH HIS "RELEGATION" TO ALGIERS FOUR YEARS LATER. SOUTOU, HOWEVER, WAS REINSTATED BY HIS OLD FRIEND FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, AND HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT SEEMS TO REFLECT GISCARD'S MORE "CONCILIATORY" ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE.

3. HIS WIFE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A SPANISH EXBECABINET MINISTER. BOTH ARE DEVOUT PRACTICING CATHOLICS.

4. ALGIERS MAY WISH TO ADD COMMENTS.
RUSH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS12004
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750168-0131
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750557/aaaabzrz.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JEAN SOUTOU, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE EEC
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, FR, BE, EEC, (SOUTOU, JEAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006